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Weekly Situation Report on International Terrorism

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1 August 1979

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WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

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1 August 1979

Montoneros Broadcast Clandestine Television Audio Messages

The Montonero terrorist organization of Argentina is currently utilizing radio transmission equipment smuggled into Argentina to override the audio portion of television programs and broadcast antigovernment propaganda during early evening hours. Thus far the Argentine authorities have recovered three of the radio transmitters, two of which were smuggled into the country by two women traveling from Uruguay. The equipment is small and believed to be transported in a vehicle from which the broadcasts are made.

The Argentine police have been investigating a series of about 23 broadcasts which began in March 1979 and which have used local television frequencies in the cities of Buenos Aires and Cordoba. The first broadcast took place in Cordoba on 13 March and was identified as the voice of Montonero leader Mario Firmenich, who lives in exile. All broadcasts have taken place in the early evening between 1900 and 1930 on weekdays. The federal police estimate that the reception of the clandestine broadcasts is limited to a radius of ten city blocks from the transmitter. Normally, regular television programming is interrupted and the sound and picture is temporarily lost. Then a voice (but without a picture image) comes on the air to deliver an antigovernment propaganda message sponsored by the Montoneros. In each case the "on the air" time has been approximately two minutes. The police suspect that a telephone company truck contains the transmitter, since it has been seen in the immediate vicinity of the interruptions on several occasions. 3.5(c)

Montonero activities during June 1979 included four broadcasts which interrupted television programs in eight different sections of Buenos Aires. Another broadcast was transmitted on 23 June after the machine-gunning of an Argentine military regiment in Santa Fe. 3.5(c)

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During the broadcasts Firmenich has announced that the Montonero movement will resume its offensive in Argentina

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during the month of August. Argentine security services believe that some type of terrorist act will occur to uphold Firmenich's statement, and they anticipate that the act will consist of a bombing of an official Argentine installation.

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